

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00484 111454Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-07 IO-13 SS-15

NSC-05 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SP-02 /087 W

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R 111325Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5165

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR, OECD, XF, IS, LU

SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 096935

1. BACKGROUND: LUXEMBOURG'S TRADE IS 92.5 PERCENT CONCENTRATED FOR IMPORTS AND 89 PERCENT FOR EXPORTS WITHIN THE COMMON MARKET, WITH THE REST OF EUROPE AND AMERICA BRINGING THESE TOTALS TO 99 PERCENT (IMPORTS) AND 94 PERCENT (EXPORTS). U.S. MULTINATIONALS HERE (GOODYEAR, DUPONT, MONSANTO) ALSO PRODUCE OVERWHELMINGLY FOR EC MARKETS. NO BREAKDOWN OF TRADE WITH ISRAEL OR THE ARAB WORLD IS READILY AVAILABLE, ONLY STATISTICS FOR AFRICA AND ASIA, WITH 0.4 PERCENT EACH (IMPORTS) AND 3 PERCENT AND 2.6 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY FOR EXPORTS. A GOL CONTACT DESCRIBED TRADE WITH ISRAEL AS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT, APART FROM AN OCCASIONAL SINGLE-ORDER PURCHASE, E.G. TIRES.

2. COMMENT: WITHOUT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL TIES TO ISRAEL, GOL HAS NOT BEEN EMBROILED IN ARAB BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN ANY INVOLVEMENT. GOL'S FRIENDLY SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IS UNQUESTIONED (SEE PRIME MINISTER GASTON THORN'S STATEMENT ON THE ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE AT THE LAST CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00484 111454Z

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY). NONETHELESS, THERE HAS BEEN

TO DATE NO NEED FOR A GOL PUBLIC POSITION ON THE BOYCOTT
ISSUE. ON SUCH QUESTIONS THE GOL GENERALLY SUPPORTS A JOINT
EC POLICY. PHILLIPS

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NNN

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